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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/524,594	09/16/2005	Henrik Orum	36731-000053/US	8831
30593	7590	12/26/2007	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.			BOSWELL, CHRISTOPHER J	
P.O. BOX 8910			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
RESTON, VA 20195			3673	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
12/26/2007	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/524,594	ORUM ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Christopher Boswell	3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 and 16-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 and 16-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 15 February 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 3 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 3 recites the identical language as in the current amendment in claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-24 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 4,454,824 to Wood.

Wood discloses a safety-fastener (10) to be secured by fastening, the fastener comprising at least a threaded tip (22) and a rod (42), the threaded tip and rod being interconnected in a joint (18) allowing transmission of rotational movement from the rod to the threaded tip in one locked state and preventing transmission of rotational movement from the rod to the threaded tip in another unlocked state (column 2, lines 56-68), wherein the joint is locked by the insertion of a locking element (36 and 40) into a rotationally locking engagement in the rod and in the threaded

tip (column 2, lines 40-48), and the rod and the threaded tip comprise a hollow channel (38) that houses the locking element (the rod is hollow; figure 6), as in claim 1.

Wood also discloses the safety-fastener being adapted to allow reversible shifting between the locked and the unlocked state (column 2, lines 56-68), as in claim 2, wherein the rod comprises a gripping means (54) extending in a direction opposite to the threaded tip for applying a torque to the rod, as in claim 4, and where the threaded part contains at least threads (figure 4), as in claim 12, as well as the length of the threaded part is at least 50% of the entire length of the safety-fastener (figure 4), as in claim 13, as well as locking means adapted to receive a pad-lock (52) for locking the locking element in either the locked and/or the unlocked states of the fastener, as in claim 18, and the rod comprises attachment means for securing peripheral objects to the fastener (via insertion of the peripherals into the lock assembly; column 3, lines 10-21), as in claim 19, wherein the object is a beach safety-box (column 1, lines 5-33), as in claim 20.

Wood further discloses the joint is locked by the insertion of the locking element (36 and 40) into a rotationally locking engagement in the rod and the threaded tip (column 2, lines 40-48), as in claim 3, wherein the locking element is accessible from a top portion of the rod opposite to the threaded tip so as to allow shifting between the locked and the unlocked state on a mounted safety-fastener (figure 4), as in claim 5, and the joint being shifted from the locked to the unlocked state and vice versa by the removal of the locking element from the joint (column 2, lines 40-48), as in claim 6, as well as the joint being shifted from the locked state to the unlocked state by irreversible breaking of the locking element (column 1, line 66-column 2, line 4), as in

claim 7, wherein the locking element is adapted to break at a pre-specified torque (column 1, line 66-column 2, line 4), as in claim 8.

Wood additionally discloses the safety-fastener being adapted to allow reversible shifting between the locked and the unlocked state by displacement of the locking element in the axial direction of the fastener (column 2, lines 40-48), as in claim 9, wherein the locking element is displaced in a direction from the rod towards the threaded part (the locked state is achieved by axially displacing the locking element towards the threaded part), as in claim 10, and the locking element being displaced in a direction from the threaded part towards the rod (the unlocked state is achieved by axially displacing the locking element towards the rod), as in claim 11.

Wood also discloses the rod being provided in the form of a hollow tube that houses the locking element (figure 6), as in claim 14, further comprising a handle member (54) arranged to control the moving of the locking element from a top portion, opposite the threaded tip of the rod (figure 4), as in claim 16, and fixating means (42 and 52) allowing fixation of the locking element in any of the first and/or the second positions, as in claim 17, wherein the joint is shifted between the locked and unlocked state by respectively removing and inserting the locking element into the safety-fastener (column 2, lines 40-68), as in claim 21.

Wood further discloses a lock safety-fastener comprising a fastener (22) and a lock (52) wherein the fastener includes an insertion-region (the auger on the end of element 22) which can be used for attachment into a solid material, and a lock-accepting region (12) which protrudes from the solid material, and wherein the attachment and locking of the lock to the lock-accepting region allows the lock to rotate freely around the lock-accepting region in its locked state thereby

significantly hindering the possibility for loosening the fastener (column 2, lines 56-68), and wherein the attachment of the lock to the lock-accepting region of the fastener includes moving the lock over the lock-accepting region (figure 2 shows the lock being over the lock-accepting region), as in claim 22.

Woods additionally discloses the insertion-region of the fastener is threaded and wherein the lock-accepting region comprises a gripping means (54) for applying torque to the fastener thereby enabling the fastener to be secured by screwing, as in claim 23, wherein the lock is constructed such that it can be attached to the lock-accepting region of the fastener when unlocked (via eyelet 50), cannot be detached from the lock-accepting region of the fastener when locked (when the lock is in the locked state, it can not be removed from the eyelet), can rotate freely on the lock-accepting region of the fastener when locked (column 2, lines 56-68), and prevents the lock-accepting region of the fastener and the fastener-head to be accessed by gripping tools when locked (column 2, lines 64-68), as in claim 24, and the use of the lock safety-fastener to secure objects against unauthorized removal (column 3, lines 10-21), as in claim 28.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woods, as applied above, in view of U.S. Patent Number 3,817,063 to Williams.

Woods discloses the invention substantially as claimed. Woods discloses the use of a pad lock (52) to lock the safety fastener. However, Woods does not explicitly disclose the pad lock being a code-lock. Williams teaches of a padlock being a code-lock (10), as in claim 25, wherein the lock has a plurality of numbered discs (66), as in claim 26, and the user can program the lock (column 3, line 52-column 4, line 6), as in claim 27, in the analogous art of lock assemblies use to secure containers in a lock state for the purpose of having a lock that does not need the use of a key to place the padlock in an unlocked state. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a code lock, as taught by Williams, in the safety-fastener of Wood in order to have a lock that does not need the use of a key to place the padlock in an unlocked state.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed October 3, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In regards to the argument that it is not clear from the office action what feature in Wood relates to the locking element, the examiner points to claim 3 which recites "a locking element" and the corresponding rejection the recites "the joint is locked by the insertion of a locking element (36 and 40) into a rotationally locking engagement in the rod and in the threaded tip (column 2, lines 40-48)".

Regarding the argument the Woods does not disclose a hollow channel that houses a locking element, the examiner respectfully disagrees. As stated in the rejection of claim 15,

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which is substantially identical to the limitations of the current amendment of claim 1, the rod and the threaded tip comprise a hollow channel that houses the locking element (the rod is hollow; figure 6), where in figure 6 it is clear that the locking element (36 and 40) are housed in a hollow channel of the rod.

In regards to the argument that Wood does not explicitly disclose the joint is shifted from the locked state to the unlocked state by irreversible breaking of the locking element, the examiner respectfully disagrees. As stated in the prior Office action, column 1, line 66-column 2, line 4, wood discloses it is impossible to engage the driving member onto the pin in the top of the shaft, and thus the locker free-wheels aimlessly on the shaft without accomplishing the disengagement of the auger if a thief attempts to remove the entire mechanism, and thus, if a thief wanted to remove the entire mechanism, it would have to break the locking mechanism to allow disengagement of the auger.

Regarding the argument that Wood does not disclose the joint is shifted between the locked and unlocked state by respectively removing and inserting the locking element into the safety-fastener, the examiner respectfully disagrees. As disclosed by Wood in column 2, lines 40-68, the locking element functions in a reciprocal manner, wherein the two elements are removed from engagement in a locked position and are inserted into engagement for an unlocked position.

Regarding the argument that Wood does not disclose the padlock attached to the container or that the attachment of the padlock includes moving the padlock over the container, the examiner respectfully disagrees. The padlock of Wood attaches to the container via the eyelet 50 of the drive member 42 of the container. Additionally, wood discloses the lock being

placed over the lock-accepting region as shown in figure 2, where the lock is clearly above the lock-accepting region.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Boswell whose telephone number is (571) 272-7054. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 4:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Engle can be reached on (571) 272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Christopher Boswell
Examiner
Art Unit 3673

CJB *CB*
December 13, 2007

Patricia Engle
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